

Appl. No. 10/024,782
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 25 May 2004

Page 9 of 11

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 4, 6, 12-14, 16, 17, and 19-30 are pending in the application. Claims 21-30 are newly added to restore the original range of claims that existed before claims were canceled in the applicant's amendment of 29 April 2004. As stated in the applicant's amendment of 19 January 2004, these claims substantially correspond to the claims as originally filed, are not narrowed in scope, and no new matter is added.

The Office action rejects claims 4, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Blonder (EP 0549890), and claims 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Blonder and Jang et al. (USP 6,522,375, hereinafter Jang). The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In each of the applicant's independent claims 4, 6, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 26, the applicant specifically claims a light reflector having n first projected portions or recessed portions at positions corresponding respectively to vertexes of an equilateral polygon having n sides, n being an odd number which is equal to or greater than 3.

Blonder specifically teaches a light reflector having projected portions that form an equilateral polygon having six sides. The applicant respectfully notes that six is not an odd number, as specifically claimed in each of the applicant's independent claims.

Advantages of using an odd number of vertices are presented at page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 2 of the applicant's specification. In particular, disadvantages of using projections that form a six sided polygon are addressed.

Blonder addresses the disadvantages of using a uniform hexagonal pattern at column 3, line 50 through column 4, line 3. Blonder corrects for these disadvantages by including random segments 12 that are distributed among the hexagonally placed spherical segments 11. The applicant respectfully maintains that Blonder effectively teaches against the applicant's invention because Blonder addresses the same problem as the applicant addresses and arrives at a different solution. Blonder

Appl. No. 10/024,782
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 25 May 2004

Page 10 of 11

neither teaches nor suggests that the use of polygons with an odd number of sides would overcome the disadvantages of using a polygon with an even number of sides.

Jang does not teach projections that form equilateral polygons. Jang specifically teaches a reflection electrode comprising "a plurality of irregular and convex polygons" (Jang, Abstract, line 4). Jang cannot be said to teach or suggest a reflector that uses projections that form a seven-sided polygon, as specifically claimed in claims 6 and 19.

Because Blonder does not teach a reflector with projections that form equilateral polygons with an odd number of sides, as specifically claimed in each of the applicant's independent claims, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Blonder.

Because neither Blonder nor Jang, individually or collectively, teaches or suggests a reflector with projections that form equilateral polygons with an odd number of sides, and because both Blonder and Jang specifically teach alternative solutions to the same problem that is addressed by the applicant, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Blonder and Jang.

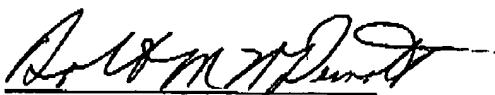
Because neither Blonder nor any of the previously cited prior art teaches or suggests a reflector with projections that form equilateral polygons with an odd number of sides, as specifically claimed in each of the applicant's independent claims, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's favorable consideration of the newly added claims 21-30.

Appl. No. 10/024,782
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 25 May 2004

Page 11 of 11

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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